

UTICA, N. Y., A PORT OF DELIVERY, ETC.

MARCH 3, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DEPEW, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4074.]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4074) constituting Utica, N. Y., a port of delivery, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report it back without amendment and recommend its passage.

The report of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the letter of the Acting Secretary of the Treasury fully present the facts in the case.

The House report is as follows:

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4074) constituting Utica, N. Y., a port of delivery, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report the same back to the House and recommend that the bill pass and that the title be amended by adding thereto "and for other purposes."

The effect of this bill is to extend to Utica, N. Y., the privileges of immediate transportation of dutiable merchandise, the importations at that city amounting to about half a million dollars per year.

This bill was favorably reported on the 26th of February last, but was not considered in the House.

The passage of the bill is urged by the Chamber of Commerce of Utica, N. Y., and their claims are set forth in the following letter and resolution:

UTICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Utica, N. Y., January 16, 1903.

DEAR SIR: In reference to the resolutions unanimously adopted by the Utica Chamber of Commerce, approving of the establishment of a custom-house in Utica, a copy of which has been forwarded to you, I beg to state some of the reasons for this action.

Inquiries of some of the business houses here have developed the fact that the direct importations for the year 1902 amounted to \$425,000. In addition to this, many firms stated they would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to purchase larger amounts than they are at present receiving should customs facilities be granted, and other merchants who now buy goods in New York and at other importing points tell us they would much prefer to import direct if the goods could be entered here.

There are large importations at all the cities and villages within easy distance from Utica, and the merchants therein are in constant communication with this city. These, if added to our figures, would increase the amount of business to probably \$500,000.

As you are aware, all entries now are obliged to be made through either Albany or Syracuse, and the merchants of Utica and vicinity are therefore subjected to considerable expense and loss of goods in entering their goods, and find themselves at great disadvantage with their competitors in other cities who enjoy the benefits of a port of entry. We feel that we are justified in making the request for a custom-house in Utica, especially as we think it can be established and maintained at a reasonable cost to the Government, and will be of great accommodation to our business men.

Trusting you may be able to forward our request and secure the facilities desired, I remain,

Yours, very truly,

JOHN C. HOXIE,
*Chairman Public Improvement Committee,
Utica Chamber of Commerce.*

HON. JAMES S. SHERMAN, *Washington, D. C.*

Utica has established a commercial and manufacturing supremacy that is not exceeded by that of any other city of its size in the United States. The business of our banks shows conclusively that the great volume of business transacted every month is proportionately greater than that of many of the larger cities.

In foreign products, such as crude material, manufactured goods, and merchandise, our importations have increased correspondingly.

A port of entry here would be inexpensive and save our business men serious annoyance and expense. Therefore we feel fully justified in requesting of the Government that it afford us the same facilities and advantages that are now enjoyed by our numerous competitors: Therefore,

Resolved, That we request our Representative in Congress, the Hon. James S. Sherman, to take immediate action for establishing a United States custom-house in Utica, N. Y.

The following is the letter of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 25, 1904.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated the 22d instant, from the clerk to your committee, transmitting for an expression of my views thereon House bill 4074, providing for the establishment of Utica, N. Y., as a port of delivery in the customs collection district of Oswego, N. Y., and extending thereto the privileges of the seventh section of the act approved June 10, 1880, governing the immediate transportation of dutiable merchandise without appraisement. The bill in question passed the House of Representatives on the 18th instant, and if, in the judgment of the Committee on Commerce, there is commercial necessity for the designation of the port, I see no objection to the passage of said bill.

Respectfully,

R. B. ARMSTRONG,
Acting Secretary.

HON. WILLIAM P. FRYE,
Chairman Committee on Commerce, United States Senate.